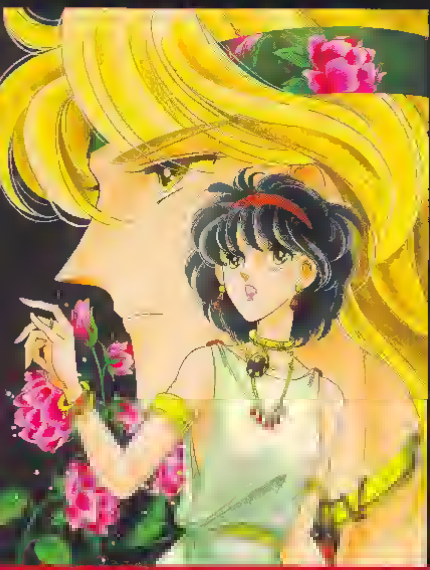
VIZ media

shōjo

RED RIVER

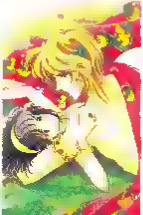


8

story and art by **Chie Shinohara**

RED RIVER

Prince Kail, a young warrior and sorceress, and Yuri, a modern-day teen were thrown together when evil Queen Nakia drew Yuri across time and space into the ancient Hittite Empire. When it is the season of the North Star, Prince Kail has the power to send Yuri home. But the evil queen's plan to murder them both—and their growing feelings for one another—keep getting in the way!



Ramses, the renowned Egyptian commander, helps Yuri find her way back to Hattusa, but on her return she finds tragedy has wracked the Hittite royal family. As a result of Nakia's manipulations, Kail's ascension to the throne is by no means guaranteed. Plus, someone has been impersonating Yuri in her absence and dragging down her reputation among the Hittites!

Over 15 million copies sold in Japan!

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Titles listed reads from right to left.

MEDIA

FOR AGES 13 AND OLDER TEEN

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RED RIVER

vol.8

Story Thus Far:

Prince Kail
The third prince of the Hittite Empire and a powerful sorcerer

Yuri
A Japanese schoolgirl magically transported to the ancient Hittite Empire

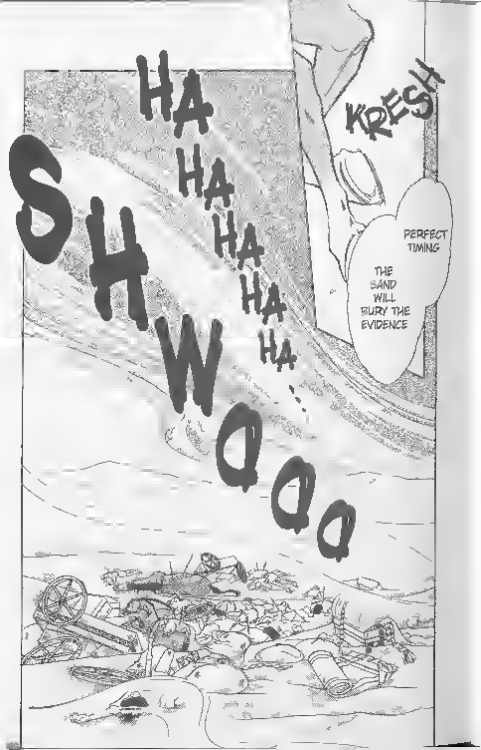
Queen Nekia
A priestess who wants to sacrifice Yuri to the Storm God in order to ensure her son's succession to the throne.

Yuri was an ordinary junior high student until the day she was sucked into a puddle on the street and emerged in the ancient Hittite Empire! Evil Queen Nekia had used her magic to draw Yuri across time and space to be a sacrifice to her god Teshub. Rescued by the handsome but arrogant Prince Kail, Yuri is taken to live in his palace as his concubine. Yuri soon learns that in order for her to return to her own place and time, three conditions must be met: she must have the help of a sorcerer equal to the queen—which Prince Kail turns out to be, all seven of Hattusa's springs must fill with water, and Yuri must wear the clothes she had on when she was kidnapped.

Yuri steals into the queen's palace with Kail's young servant, Tito, to retrieve her clothes. But they walk into a trap, and Tito is killed after saving Yuri's life. When the opportunity finally arrives for Yuri to go home, she refuses, vowing to stay until she has avenged Tito's murder.

The Hittites come to adore Yuri as the incarnation of the goddess Ishtar. Soon Yuri discovers that Prince Kail's dream is to create an empire of justice with his brother Zannanza.

Now the Hittite emperor receives a request from the Queen of Egypt that he send one of his sons to marry her and rule at her side. Kail is the most likely candidate, but Prince Zannanza defeats all the other princes in a chariot race and is chosen to go to Egypt instead. Yuri decides to accompany Zannanza to the Egyptian border to see him off. En route, they are attacked by Queen Nekia's men. Zannanza is killed and Yuri is left for dead. The desert sands soon begin to bury the bodies.


HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
SHWaaa
KRESH
PERFECT TIMING
THE SAND WILL BURY THE EVIDENCE

A SAND STORM
SO WHAT IF IT LEADS TO WAR ?!
FWOOSH
I KILLED BOTH PRINCE ZANNANZA AND ISHTAR!
THE QUEEN WILL REWARD ME WELL FOR THIS!!

IT'S BURYING PRINCE ZANNANZA! HE HAS TO GO TO EGYPT!
NO!
HE'LL BE LOVED BY HIS QUEEN AND HIS PEOPLE ... HE'LL BE A GOOD VIRTUOUS KING!!
HE'S GOING TO RULE IT AND BRING PEACE TO THE LAND!!
PRINCE, ZANNANZA

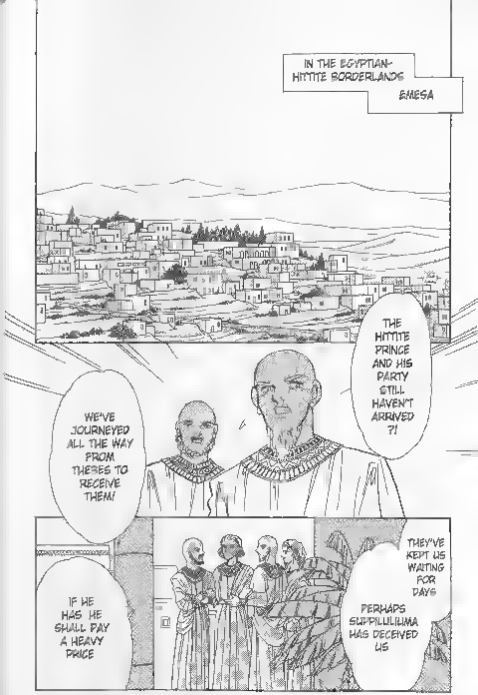
SHOOSH
SHOOSH
SHOOSH
SHOOSH
N-NO
SAND IS COVERING LIG.

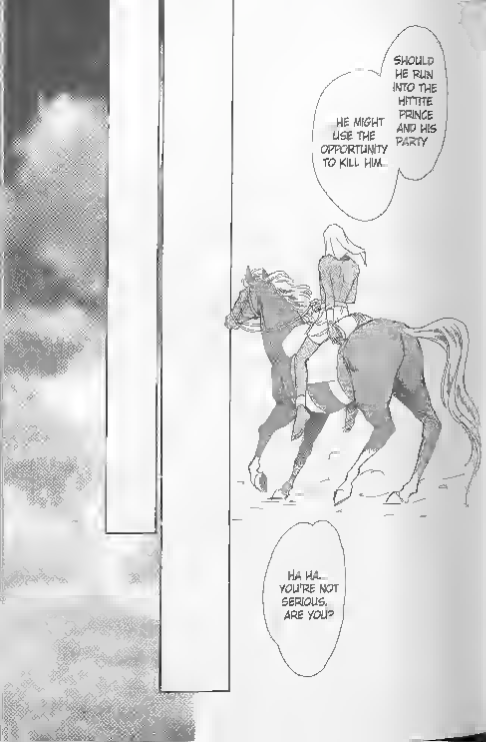
TUP
TUP

TWITCH
THWUMP
KRUNCH
KRESH
KRESH

KSHHHHH
KRASH
KRASH
KRASH
SHWOOO

I'D BE HAPPY IF THIS ZANNANZA NEVER SHOWED UP
DON'T THEY REALIZE WHAT A DISASTER IT WILL BE TO HAVE A FOREIGNER SIT ON THE THRONE OF EGYPT?
WHAT ARE THE MINISTERS WHINING ABOUT NOW?
HA H
MY FEELINGS ARE NO SECRET WHOEVER ASSIGNED ME TO THIS WAS A FOOL...
COMMANDER, YOU'RE SPEAKING TOO LOUDLY
AS THE COMMANDER OF THE HITTITE PRINCE'S ESCORT YOU...


IN THE EGYPTIAN-HITTITE BORDERLANDS
EMESA
THE HITTITE PRINCE AND HIS PARTY STILL HAVEN'T ARRIVED ?!
WE'VE JOURNEYED ALL THE WAY FROM THERES TO RECEIVE THEM!
IF WE HAS HE SHALL PAY A HEAVY PRICE
PERHAPS SUPPILULIUMA HAS DECEIVED US
THEY'VE KEPT US WAITING FOR DAYS


HE MIGHT USE THE OPPORTUNITY TO KILL HIM..
SHOULD HE RUN INTO THE HITTITE PRINCE AND HIS PARTY
HA HA... YOU'RE NOT SERIOUS, ARE YOU?
BUT YOU MUSTN'T SIR! WE'LL ALL BE IN TROUBLE IF THEY FIND YOU'VE LEFT!!
THEY SAY THE NOMAD WOMEN AROUND HERE ARE QUITE COMELY. I INTEND TO DISCOVER IF THAT'S TRUE
COMMANDER, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I CAN'T STAND THIS BORING PLACE ANOTHER MOMENT!!
TELL THOSE PEACOCKS I'VE GONE TO LOOK FOR THE PRINCE.
OUR COMMANDER BELIEVES THAT EGYPT SHOULD BELONG ONLY TO EGYPTIANS.
AND HE'S BEEN VOCAL IN HIS OPPOSITION TO A HITTITE KING
SHOULD WE LET HIM GO?
HOW CAN WE STOP HIM?
TA RRR
BROOM
COMMANDER!

WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?!
WUP
THAT MAN IS...
...ONE OF THE GUARDS WHO ACCOMPANIED PRINCE ZANNANZA!
FORGIVE THE INCONVENIENCE BUT...
...THANK YOU, SIR. LET'S GO!!
GO REPORT THIS TO THE EMPEROR
I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM
YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO NOW
WELCOME HOME...
YES SIR
I'LL TELL THEM THE EGYPTIANS DID IT
SMIRK!
URH! THE PRIEST!

HATTUSA, CAPITAL OF THE HITTITE EMPIRE

DAMN! THIS MEANS WAR!!
PLEASE WAIT, FATHER... WE SHOULD INVESTIGATE THIS MATTER CAREFULLY...
THEY TRICKED US, JUST AS I SUSPECTED THEY MIGHT!!
MOST CRUELLY BY AN EGYPTIAN SOLDIER & SPEAR.
YES, YOUR MAJESTY
I'M SORRY TO BRING YOU SUCH UNHAPPY TIDINGS
ARE YOU CERTAIN MY SON WAS KILLED?
YOUR MAJESTY LOOK AT THIS?! I BROUGHT IT BACK AS EVIDENCE
IT'S ONE OF THE ARROWS THE EGYPTIAN SOLDIERS SHOT AT US

GOOD NOW TAKE THIS WITH YOU
YOUR WORD MAY NOT BE ENOUGH...
THIS IS AN EGYPTIAN ARROW
PRESENT IT TO HIS MAJESTY AS EVIDENCE

WHAT?!
ZANNANZA'S PARTY WAS ATTACKED BY THE EGYPTIANS ?!

GASP
PREPARE FOR BATTLE!
HURRY UP!
THIS MEANS WAR!!
IS IT TRUE THAT MY BROTHER AND ALL THOSE WITH HIM WERE SLAIN?
IT IS TRUE I'M VERY SORRY
PRINCE KAIL
I MUST PREPARE TO LEAVE WITH THE EXPEDITION
PARDON ME, YOUR HIGHNESS

DAMN THE EGYPTIANS THEY'LL PAY DEARLY FOR THIS!
HOW DARE THEY DECEIVE US AND MURDER MY SON!
THAT IS AN EGYPTIAN ARROW!
EXACTLY AS WE PLANNED YOUR HIGHNESS.
PRINCE IANNANZA AND THE GIRL ARE DEAD
HAHA.
I SHALL LEAD OUR ARMIES MYSELF!!
THE EGYPTIANS WANT WAR, AND THEY SHALL HAVE IT!!
IT WAS A WASTE TO KILL THE GIRL, BUT SO BE IT
WHEN KAIL HAS BEEN ELIMINATED OUR SUCCESS WILL BE COMPLETE

YURI AND ZANNANZA--DEAD?!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!!
THERE MUST BE SOME MISTAKE!
BUT FIRST, I WANT TO CONFIRM HIS STORY.
I'M GOING TO BABEL!!
PRINCE KAIL!!

I'LL READY OUR WAR GEAR PRINCE KAIL!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
ALL OF THEM WERE KILLED?!
EVEN PRINCESS YURI?
PRINCE KAIL?
HOW DO YOU SUPPOSE HE MADE IT BACK WHEN EVERYONE ELSE WAS KILLED?
STRANGE.
IF WHAT THAT MAN SAYS IS TRUE...
...I'LL DESTROY EGYPT WITH MY OWN HANDS!!

AGH!!
NING!

WE HAVE TO GO BACK... TO HATTUSA
WE HAVE TO TELL PRINCE KAI... WHAT HAP-PENED
OH, NO...
AG-LAN?
WHERE ARE WE?
WHERE'S PRINCE ZANNAN-ZA?

I CAN'T MOVE.
BUT...
KRESH

THUMP!
WHUP
UHN...

I HAVE TO REPORT THIS IN HATTUSA.
I, I WAS ACCOMPANYING THE HITTITE PRINCE ZANNAN-ZA.
BUT OUR CARAVAN WAS ATTACKED
HOW EMBARRASSING IT MUST HAVE BEEN FOR THE HITTITE SOLDIERS TO BE DEFEATED BY BANDITS
HA HA HA HA
THE PRINCE'S PARTY WAS ATTACKED?!
GOOD!!
TARRUM
W-WAIT
PLEASE, TAKE ME WITH YOU!
YOU'RE NONE OF MY CONCERN, GIRL

H-HELP ME.
PLEASE.
A MAN !!
WHAT IS A WOMAN DOING HERE?
SHE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A NOMAD

GASP
NOW I CAN FINALLY GO HOME TO MEMPHIS
KLANK
AND WRAP UP THIS POINTLESS MISSION
I'LL RETURN TO MY TROOPS TOMOR-ROW...
WAIT !!
IF THE HITTITE PRINCE IS DEAD WHAT WONDERFUL LUCK!
I DOUBT OUR QUEEN WILL TRY TO MARRY A FOREIGNER AGAIN

WHAT AN AUDACIOUS GIRL. YOU ARE TO THREATEN A SOLDIER WHEN YOU CAN BARELY STAND!
IT SEEMS TO ME YOU'RE DESTINED TO DIE HERE.
WHY DON'T YOU JUST GIVE UP?
OH!
SWAP

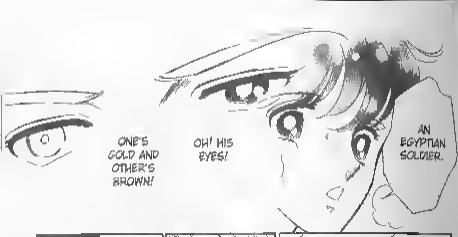
SWAP

I'LL HAUNT YOU, TOO
IF I DIE HERE.
I'LL HAUNT YOUR FAMILY FOR GENERATIONS.

YOU'RE THE GIRL I SAW IN THE DESERT!
TAKE ME...
...TO HATTUSA.
SHUDDER
OTHERWISE WAR WILL.
AMAZING... I DIDN'T SENSE HER PRESENCE AT ALL
I HAVE TO... GO TO HATTUSA...

WOMP
WHAT MANNER OF WOMAN...
...IS SHE?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR EGYPTIAN GHOSTS ARE LIKE, BUT...
...JAPANESE GHOSTS ARE TERRIFYING!
WHAT?
IF YOU LEAVE ME TO DIE, I'LL HATE YOU MORE THAN THE ONE WHO SHOT ME...
I'M NOT THE ONE WHO PUT THAT ARROW IN YOU, GIRL!
I HAVE TO GET BACK TO HATTUSA!!
I... I CAN'T LET MYSELF DIE HERE!

I WAS ON MY WAY TO BUY IT WITH PRINCE ZANNANZA.
BUT... HE'S...
WHERE AM I?
NO, PRINCE KAIL IS IN MITTUSA.
GASp
PRINCE ZANNANZA !!
!!
SHRIK
PRINCE KAIL?
a HAND? A MAN'S HAND?
WHA... WHAT?
UNNN...


ONE'S GOLD AND OTHER'S BROWN!
OH! HIS EYES!
AN EGYPTIAN SOLDIER.

YOU LITTLE WILDCAT
YOU HELD ONTO MY LEG AND THREATENED TO HAUNT ME. AND NOW YOU TELL ME NOT TO TOUCH YOU?
I'D JUST LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT YOU CAME TO ME FOR HELP.
HOLD STILL! LET ME PULL THAT ARROW OUT FOR YOU.
I WON'T CARE! LEAVE ME ALONE!
IF I DON'T DO IT NOW IT WILL BE MORE DIFFICULT LATER BECAUSE YOUR FLESH WILL HARDEN.

I HAVE TO CONTACT FIRINGE KAIL OR WAR WILL BREAK OUT BETWEEN THE HITTITE EMPIRE AND EGYPT.
I DON'T NEED YOU TO TREAT MY WOUND! JUST TAKE ME TO KATTU-SA.
OR AT LEAST TAKE ME TO THE NEAREST TOWN WITH A HITTITE GOVERNOR!!

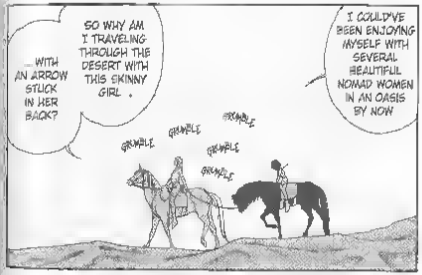
ZAKK
DON'T TOUCH ME!!
UNGH!!
HUP

I WAS ONLY TRYING TO TEND YOUR WOUND...

PRINCE KAIL IS NOT CORRUPT!!
I KNOW WHY PRINCE ZANNANZA DECIDED TO GO TO EGYPT
I CAN'T ALLOW HIS DREAM TO DIE!
THE HITTITE PRINCE WAS MURDERED?
WHO KILLED HIM?
EMERRHEY
WAR?
TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED
I SEE. THERE'S A FEUD WITHIN THE HITTITE ROYAL FAMILY, EH?
THAT'S A FAMILIAR TALE
I HAVE TO GET TO HATTUSA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
I CAN'T TELL YOU. BUT IF I DON'T HURRY, THE HITTITES WILL THINK THE EGYPTIANS DID IT!
I HOPE THEY KILL EACH OTHER.
ANYWAY, THE RULERS OF EGYPT AND THE HITTITE EMPIRE ARE ALL GORGEOUS!
WAR ALLOWS US SOLDIERS TO WIN HONOR AND FAME.
BUT I WOULD WELCOME WAR

HAS ANYONE EVER TOLD YOU YOU'RE A PAIN?
HEY EGYPTIAN SOLDIER TALK TO ME
OTHERWISE I'M GOING TO FAINT
STOP CALLING ME EGYPTIAN SOLDIER. MY NAME IS —
I DON'T NEED TO HEAR IT
I WON'T BE ABLE TO REMEMBER IT ANYWAY
SEEING HER WAS THE ONLY THING I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO ON THIS ASSIGNMENT.
BY THE WAY, I HEARD THAT A WOMAN BELIEVED TO BE ISHTAR WAS ACCOMPANYING THE PRINCE WAS SHE VERY BEAUTIFUL?
BUT THEY SAY THE THIRD PRINCE COULD HAVE ANY WOMEN HE DESIRED
KRESH
WHAT?! BUT I HEARD SHE WAS THE THIRD PRINCE'S CONCUBINE
THAT'S RIGHT
I'M HER.
KRESH
KRESH
KRESH
YES BUT THERE'S ONLY ONE ISHTAR

WHAT A NICE MAN I AM.


I COULD'VE BEEN ENJOYING MYSELF WITH SEVERAL BEAUTIFUL NOMAD WOMEN IN AN OASIS BY NOW
SO WHY AM I TRAVELING THROUGH THE DESERT WITH THIS SKINNY GIRL —
— WITH AN ARROW STUCK IN HER BACK?
GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE

KRESH
I COULD JUST LEAVE HER HERE...
KRESH
STOP COMPLAINING EGYPTIAN SOLDIER.
NO ONE LIKES A WHINER.

HURRY UP... EGYPTIAN SOLDIER!
CURVES
AT ANY RATE YOUR HITTITE PRINCE AND I HAVE VERY DIFFERENT TASTE IN WOMEN
MY "HE" IS MORE LIKE THIS
NILE AND VOLUPTUOUS

THAT'S STRANGE THEY DON'T NORMALLY TRAVEL DURING THIS SEASON
THEY SEEM TO BE ON THE MOVE
THEY'RE BEDOUINS
WHAT'S THAT?

KRAK!
HIS IDEA OF ISHTAR.
YOU MUST BE LYING?!

ACTUALLY WHEN SHE'S NOT SHOWING HER FANGS SHE'S MORE LIKE A YOUNG DESERT GAZELLE...
— THAN A WILDCAT
THIS GIRL IS ISHTAR?

THE HITTITE TERRITORY
IN THOSE DAYS THE BORDER BETWEEN THE TWO EMPIRES WAS HIGHLY UNSTABLE.
KARKEMISH
HALAB (NOW ALEPPO)
HAMAH
QADESH
EMESA (NOW HOMS)
SYRIAN DESERT
EGYPTIAN TERRITORY
THE BORDER OF THE HITTITE EMPIRE LAY SOMEWHERE IN PRESENT-DAY SYRIA.
I HAVE TO STOP THE WAR!!

AND THE EGYPTIANS ARE PREPARING TO FIGHT BACK
WAR! THERE IS GOING TO BE A WAR!
THE HITTITE ARMIES ARE COMING!
HO! WHAT'S HAPPENING?

EASY GIRL YOU'RE INJURED! TAKE IT SLOWLY
I HAVE TO GET TO PRINCE KAIL...
WOOSH
N- NO
I HAVE TO STOP IT...
SWUFF

THE HITTITE TROOPS HAVE FORMED TO THE NORTH OF THE TOWN.
AND THE EGYPTIANS TO THE SOUTH.
IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN
WILL THERE BE WAR, KIKKURI?
TODAY'S TALKS WILL DECIDE THAT

THE HITTITE-EGYPTIAN BORDERLANDS
ENESA

PRINCE ZANNANZA...
AND THE OTHERS ARE DEAD
I SHOULDN'T HAVE LET HIM GO!!
EVEN IF IT MEANT WAR WITH EGYPT, I SHOULDN'T HAVE LET EITHER OF THEM GO!!
YOUR MAJESTY!
I'VE CONFIRMED THAT PRINCE ZANNANZA AND HIS PARTY LEFT THE TOWN OF HAMAH TEN DAYS AGO!
THEN ZANNANZA REALLY IS.
I CAME HERE WITH YOU BECAUSE I WAS WORRIED ABOUT ZANNANZA IT BREAKS MY HEART TO THINK THE EGYPTIANS HAVE KILLED HIM.
THIS TOWN IS ONLY ONE DAY'S JOURNEY FROM HAMAH
HMM...
IT SEEMS HIS MAJESTY IS BENT ON WAR
WHAT EVER THE TRUTH.
THEN I WILL SMITE THEM FROM THE EARTH.
ALL RIGHT I WILL MEET WITH THE EGYPTIANS
I HAD HOPED THERE WAS SOME MISTAKE BUT

RIGHT NOW I YEARN FOR BATTLE TOO
BUT I BURN WITH RAGE AND DARK EMOTIONS
THERE ARE MANY THINGS THAT NEED TO BE CLARIFIED
I KNOW I SHOULD CALM MY FATHER.
LET US RESCUE ISHTAR !!
THOSE DIRTY EGYPTIANS!
THEY KILLED OUR PRINCE
HITTITE LIARS !!!
YOU NEVER SENT YOUR PRINCE TO US!!

GREAT SUPPILULIUMA, DO YOU CONTEND THAT WE EGYPTIANS MURDERED YOUR SON?!
I AM HOREMHEB. QUEEN ANKHESENAMEN'S EMISSARY PLENIPOTENTIARY
SUCH AN ACCUSATION IS INTOLERABLE!!
DO YOU DENY IT ?!
WE HAVE A WITNESS!!
IS THIS FALSE ACCUSATION SOME PRETEXT FOR WAR?
WHATEVER YOUR WITNESS CLAIMS WE DID NOT KILL YOUR SON!
HOW DARE YOU?!! IT IS YOU WHO HAVE PROVOKED THIS WAR, NOT WE!!

I'LL NEVER HOLD HER IN MY ARMS AGAIN !!
ATTACK !!
GASP
F-FATHER!
WAIT !!
WHY ?!
THEN LET THERE BE WAR!!
AND NEVER AGAIN WILL I STROK[illegible] YOUR BLACK HAIR.
EGYPTIAN DOGS!! WE WILL CRUSH YOU!!
I'LL LOOK INTO MY [illegible]'S CLEAR HAZEL EYES.
...NO MORE.

twang
ALL RIGHT.
BEFORE YOU START THIS DEADLY GAME, A WORD
COMMANDER!!
?!
KLOP
KLOP
PLEASE WAIT!
DON'T GO TO WAR!
TARUMP
KLOP
KLOP

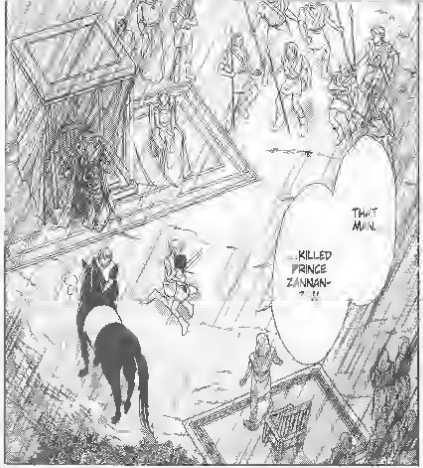
GRAAH
GRAAH
WOOSH
!!
TUNK
FWOOSH

YURI!!
OH!
TARRUMP
THE EGYP-TIANS
TARRU
TARRUMP
DIDN'T DO IT!!

SWUFF
HUFF
HUFF
GIVE ME A MOMENT PLEASE!!
WHAT?
W-WAIT...
YURI, YOU'RE HURT! YOU NEED A SURGEON!!
W.I.P

YURI, YOU'RE...!!
HUFF
PRINCE KAIL
DID I MAKE IT IN TIME?
HUFF

SHE NEEDS IMMEDIATE ATTENTION AND REST
THE SUN HAS RAKED THE POOR GIRL'S BRAIN!
SHE'S BEEN ROAMING THE DESERT UNPROTECTED AND WITH THAT HORRIFIC WOUND?
QUEEN NAKIA !!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ORDERED PRINCE ZANNANZA'S MURDER !!
DON'T PRETEND YOU HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT !!

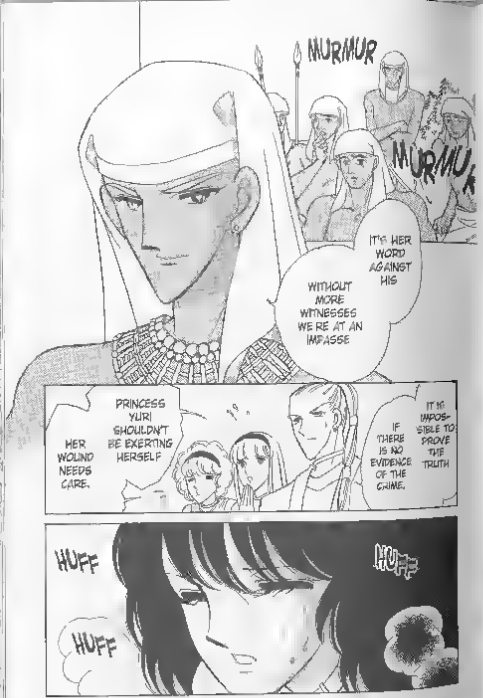

THAT MAN...
...KILLED PRINCE ZANNAN-Z !!

OH DEAR.
NO, I,
QUEEN NAKIA!!

THE EGYPTIANS MURDERED PRINCE ZANNANZA!
THIS MAN SAW IT ALL!!
SHE'S RAVING!
SHE NEEDS BED REST!
THE EGYPTIANS DIDN'T DO IT!!
I SAW THAT MAN KILL PRINCE ZANNANZA!!
THAT'S NOT TRUE
YURI!!
QUEEN NIKA, I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU.
PRINCE ZANNANZA'S BLOOD IS ON YOUR HANDS!!
I'LL SEE THAT YOU PAY FOR THIS!!

A BIT OF GENTLE PERSUASION MIGHT MAKE HIM REMEMBER WHAT REALLY HAPPENED
AND WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO EXPOSE ALL THE QUEEN'S EVIL DEEDS...
HE WAS KILLED BY THAT MAN'S SPEAR!!
YES!
CAN'T WE, IL'RANI?
WE CAN BRING DOWN THE QUEEN!
PER-HAPS
BUT SHE WON'T GO DOWN WITHOUT A FIGHT

I SAW HIM DIE WITH MY OWN EYES!
ISHTAR IS SICK! SHE BURNS WITH FEVER!!
SHE, SHE'S MAD!
THIS IS PRINCE ZANNANZA'S BLOOD!!
LOOK AT THIS!!
THEY WEREN'T FEVER DREAMS!!
YOU MUST GO AND REST NOW MY CHILD
YES!! HER ORDEAL IN THE DESERT HAS GIVEN HER FEVER DREAMS! SHE SHOULD NEVER HAVE GONE THERE


MURMUR
MURMUR
IT'S HER WORD AGAINST HIS
WITHOUT MORE WITNESSES WE'RE AT AN IMPASSE
PRINCESS YURI SHOULDN'T BE EXERTING HERSELF
HER WOUND NEEDS CARE.
IF THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF THE CRIME,
IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO PROVE THE TRUTH
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

AS WE'VE TOLD YOU REPEATEDLY WE HAD NO PART IN PRINCE ZANNANZA'S MURDER
THE REST OF ISHTAR'S STORY
WE WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO HEAR
WHO IS TELLING THE TRUTH?
ISHTAR OR THE SOLDIER?
ALL I DID WAS ESCAPE WITH MY LIFE... ...AND RETURN TO HATTUSA TO WARN YOUR MAJESTY!
THEY DID IT!
THE EGYPTIANS
THEN YOU KILLED YOUR CRONIES?!
YOU'RE LYING!! YOU AND YOUR CRONIES KILLED PRINCE ZANNANZA AND HIS MEN!
WITHOUT A SHRED OF EVIDENCE
WHAT AN AWFUL GIRL TO ACCUSE A MAN OF SUCH A HEINOUS CRIME.

I'M NOT LYING!!
I HAVE EVIDENCE THAT PROVES HE'S THE MURDERER !!
IF YOU CONTINUE TO LIE, I'LL HAVE YOU GAGGED!
ENOUGH OF YOUR INSOLENCE !!
I HAVE EVIDENCE
WOBBLE
YURI?!
...I'LL THROW YOU IN PRISON, EVEN IF YOU ARE ISHTAR!!
IF YOU CONTINUE TO ACCUSE PEOPLE WITHOUT EVIDENCE...
IF YOU INSIST THAT WHAT YOU SAW WAS REAL, THEN YOU MUST PROVE IT.
HMPH!!
I WON'T HAVE THIS RAGGEDY CHILD QUESTIONING MY WORD!!
W-WAIT PLEASE!
HUFF
LET'S SEE TO YOUR WOUND
YURI, THAT'S ENOUGH

THAT GIRL! SO THAT'S WHY SHE WOULDN'T LET ME REMOVE THE ARROW?!
EGYPTIAN ARROW HEADS.
AND HITTITE ARROW-HEADS ARE DIFFERENT.
THIS ARROW WILL MAKE IT CLEAR WHO SHOT ME!!
YURI.
YOU'RE...

LOOK AT THIS ARROW!!
PULL IT OUT AND EXAMINE IT...
...AND YOU'LL SEE WHO IT BELONGS TO!!

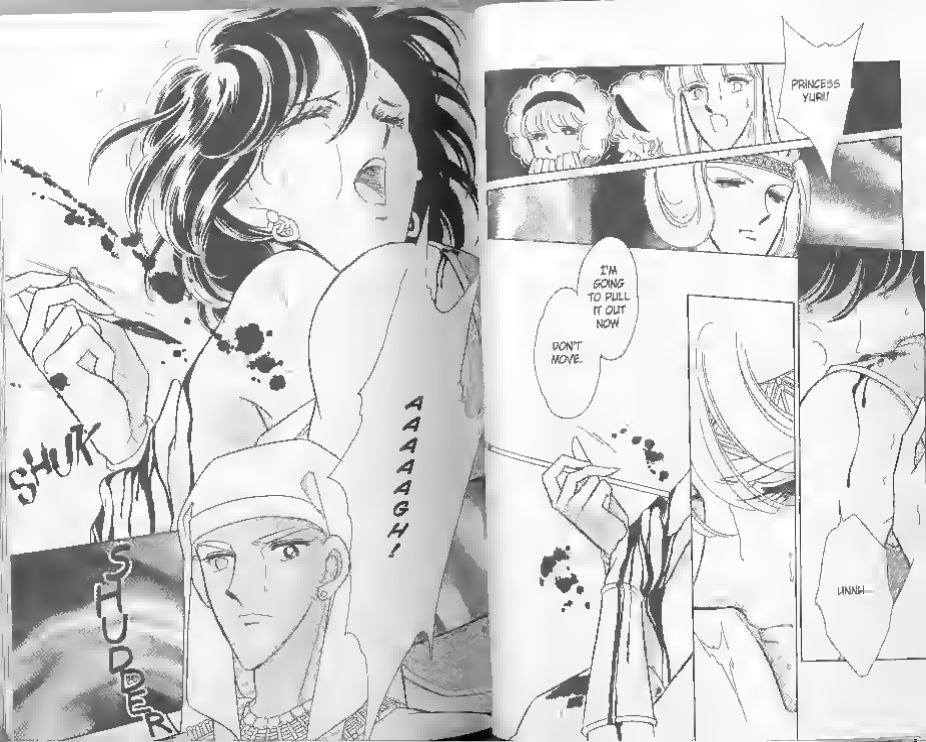
OH!
PRINCESS YURI!
I DON'T CARE!
PLEASE! CUT IT OUT!!
I'D HAVE TO CUT IT OUT. THE PAIN WOULD BE...
BUT IT'S BEEN IN YOU FOR DAYS. YOUR FLESH HAS HARDENED AROUND IT.
YOU WANT ME TO PULL IT OUT...
THE QUEEN MUST PAY FOR HIS MURDER!!
DO IT PLEASE!!
PRINCE ZANNANZA WOULD HAVE BEEN A GOOD KING
WAP

HUFF
HUFF
AND I'VE HEARD EACH ARROW-MAKER HAS HIS OWN WAY OF ATTACHING THE ARROW-HEAD
BY LOOKING AT THAT YOU CAN SEE WHOSE ARROW THIS IS
GASP
AH...
YURI
SWIP
PRINCE KAIL. PLEASE PULL THIS ARROW OUT RIGHT NOW
LET EVERYONE HERE SEE WHO IT BELONGS TO!!

PRINCE KAIL THE DAGGER IS READY!
I SEE...
WAP

KAKUDO
GET A DAGGER AND HOLD THE BLADE OVER A FLAME, THEN BRING IT TO ME
HIGH!?
Y-YES YOUR HIGHNESS
HURRY!!
IS ZANNANZA REALLY DEAD?
IS IT TRUE?

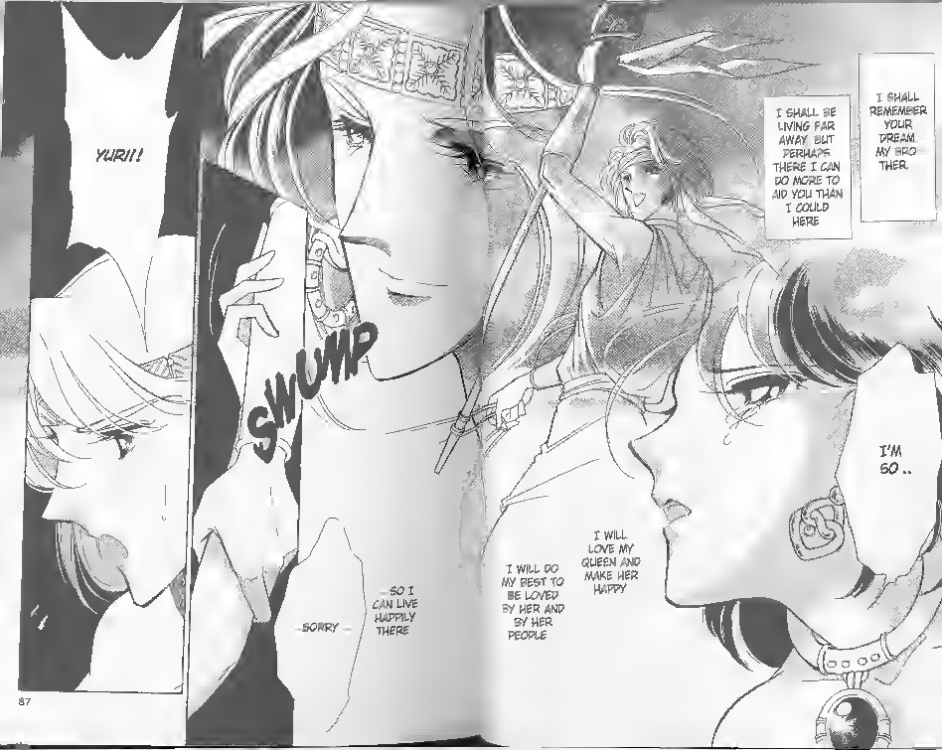
ARE YOU READY?
TIK...
BITE MY SHOULDER.
IF YOU CLENCH YOUR OWN TEETH TOO HARD THEY'LL BREAK
THIS WILL HURT YOU TERRIBLY
SRIFE
KRK
SWUFF
AHH!
UNNNH!!
SHUDDER


SHUK
SHUDDER
AAAAAGH!
PRINCESS YURI!
I'M GOING TO PULL IT OUT NOW
DON'T MOVE.
UHHH...

HEY!!
TOMP
NO!
CATCH HIM !!
DON'T LET HIM ESCAPE !!
I, I WAS ORDERED TO DO IT!!
IT WASN'T MY IDEA!!

YOUR MAJESTY, LOOK AT THIS!!
THIS IS UNDOUBTEDLY A HITTITE ARROW!!!
AAH!
NOW TO WASH OFF THE BLOOD AND SEE WHO MADE IT

OH NO...
NOW THERE'S NO WAY TO PROVE THAT QUEEN NAKIA WAS BEHIND THE MASSACRE!!
BUT WE MIGHT HAVE INTERROGATED HIM AND LEARNED WHO PUT HIM UP TO IT!
HE MURDERED PRINCE ZANNANZA!!
URRR WHY DID YOU DO THAT?
OH, FORGIVE ME— I ACTED RASHLY.
SWUMP
PRINCE ZANNANZA— I'M SORRY
YURI ?!
HE WAS RUNNING TOWARDS ME—
I ACTED ON IMPULSE, I FEAR.
SHOOM
SLISH
AGHH!


YURI!!
SWUMP
—SORRY—
—SO I CAN LIVE HAPPILY THERE
I WILL DO MY BEST TO BE LOVED BY HER AND BY HER PEOPLE
I WILL LOVE MY QUEEN AND MAKE HER HAPPY
I'M SO..
I SHALL BE LIVING FAR AWAY, BUT PERHAPS THERE I CAN DO MORE TO AID YOU THAN I COULD HERE
I SHALL REMEMBER YOUR DREAM, MY BROTHER.

GENERAL HOREMHEB.
WE APOLOGIZE FOR WRONGLY ACCUSING EGYPT. BUT MAY WE CONCLUDE OUR TALKS AT ANOTHER TIME?
THAT SUITS US, YOUR HIGHNESS. WE AWAIT YOUR WORD.
IT'S TYPICAL OF YOU, RAMSES, TO WANDER OFF AT AN IMPORTANT TIME LIKE THIS
HOREM-HEB
YOU BROUGHT YURI HERE
FOR THAT YOU HAVE MY GRATITUDE
HEH
SMILE
I AM PRINCE KAI MURSIL.
MAY I ASK YOUR NAME?

YURI!!
TAKE HER TO THE SURGEON!
YES, YOUR HIGHNESS !!
NEVER IN MY LIFE.
HAVE I BEEN SO BEWITCHED BY A WOMAN

RAMSES?
HIS REPUTATION FOR HAVING A GOOD EYE FOR WOMEN TURNS OUT TO BE TRUE.
KAIL NAURSIL!
THAT GIRL IS WORTHY OF A KING!!
A WOMAN LIKE THAT IS NO MERE PLAYTHING FOR THE BED CHAMBER.
THAT ONE THINKS LIKE A KING
ANY RULER WOULD BE FORTUNATE TO HAVE SUCH A WOMAN AT HIS SIDE!!

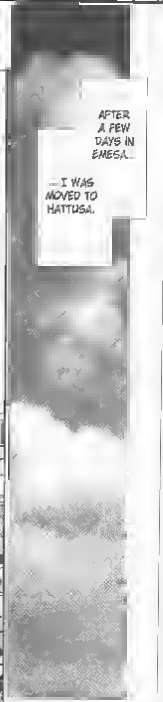
RAMSES
I AM USR RAMSES YOUR HIGHNESS..
...WHO KNOWS WHERE I'LL BE EXILED TO AFTER THIS...
I WAS CHIEF COMMANDER OF THE EGYPTIAN ARMY RESPONSIBLE FOR GUARDING THE NILE DELTA BEFORE I CAME HERE, BUT...
I SHALL NOT FORGET YOU.
RAMSES....

SNUFF
YUNI
WELCOME HOME..

UNNN.

SHE INSISTS SHE KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT THE MURDERS
DESPITE PRINCE KAIL'S INVESTIGATION
WHAT A SHAMELESS ARROGANT WOMAN THE QUEEN IS!!
PRINCE KAIL HAD A HARD TIME PLACATING THEM
THE EGYPTIANS WERE VERY UPSET THAT WE HAD ACCUSED THEM OF THE MURDERS
IT'S A PITY WE WEREN'T ABLE TO EXPOSE HER EVIL. BUT I SUPPOSE WE DID ALL WE COULD
HADI.
IS THIS.. PRINCE KAIL'S BEDROOM?
OH PRINCESS YURI, YOU'RE AWAKE?!

I DON'T REMEMBER IT VERY WELL BECAUSE I HAD A FEVER FOR DAYS
—THE INCIDENTS IN THE DESERT HAD BEEN ALL BUT DISMISSED BY THE QUEEN
WHEN I COULD FINALLY SIT UP IN BED


AFTER A FEW DAYS IN EMESA...
—I WAS MOVED TO HATTUSA.

I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO SLEEP OF LATE
NOT SINCE ZANNANZA'S DEATH
BUT WITH YOU BY MY SIDE, I THINK I CAN REST
DON'T WORRY. I WON'T TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A WOUNDED WOMAN

IS YURI AWAKE?
PRINCE KAIL SAID YOU SHOULD REST HERE
YES IT IS
YOUR HIGHNESS
PRINCE KAIL...
EXCUSE US,

LET'S PRAY THAT NOTHING ELSE GETS IN THE WAY OF THEIR LOVE
HER WOUNDS ARE HEALING NICELY
AW... THINGS ARE FINALLY WORKING OUT FOR PRINCE KAIL AND YURI

NOT EVEN VERGAL GOD OF THE UNDER WORLD...
CAN TAKE YOU FROM ME
YOU'RE MINE
NO MAN WILL EVER TAKE YOU FROM ME AGAIN

A DEADLY PLAGUE SPREAD THROUGH-OUT THE HITTITE EMPIRE
HIS MAJESTY IS VERY ILL!

A SICKNESS SUDDENLY STRUCK DOWN THE KING
YOUR MAJESTY!
KING SUPPIL-LULIUMA !!
UNH
OH
NO
KRASH
UNFORTU-NATELY
THE PATH OF LOVE IS SELDOM WITHOUT PITFALLS

I WANT TO SEE HIM!
HOW IS MY FATHER?
WHAT?
YOU MAY NOT
YOUR HIGHNESS
THE SEVEN DAY FEVER?!
FOR FEAR OF INFECTION, NONE OF THE PRINCES MAY ENTER THE PALACE
THE PHYSICIANS SAY HIS MAJESTY SUFFERS FROM THE SEVEN DAY FEVER.
I MUST GO TO HIS SIDE!
PRINCE KALL IS DISTRAUGHT
THE KING IS SICK?
BRING ME A HORSE!
WHAT?
MY FATHER IS ILL?

WE HAVE ASKED THE CROWN PRINCE NOT TO LEAVE HIS PALACE
THE PLAGUE IS ALREADY SPREADING QUICKLY
PLEASE RETURN TO YOUR PALACE TOO, PRINCE KAIL
I WANT TO SEE MY FATHER EVEN IF ONLY FOR A MOMENT
AND ANYWAY HIS MAJESTY IS STILL UNCONSCIOUS
YOU MUSTN'T, YOUR HIGHNESS!
PRINCE KAIL.
WITH THE KING'S PALACE CLOSED UP, I FEAR THE EMPIRE WILL FALL INTO CHAOS.
BRING ALL CRUCIAL MATTERS OF STATE TO ME
THEN I WILL ACT ON THE KING'S BEHALF FOR NOW.
YES.
BUT, MOTHER, I WANT TO SEE FATHER!
IMPOSSIBLE! WE CAN'T STAY HERE ANOTHER MOMENT!
JUDA, LET US RETURN TO OUR PALACE !!
THE SEVEN DAY FEVER ?!
OH NO
IT IS SAID THAT WHEN THIS SCOURGE STRUCK IN THE PAST ENTIRE CITIES PERISHED
DIES WITHIN SEVEN DAYS
ANY-ONE WHO CONTRACTS IT
OH, YOU COME FROM A FAR LAND SO MAYBE YOU HAVEN'T HEARD OF IT
THE SEVEN DAY FEVER?

PRINCE KAIL...
FATHER.
...YOUR HIGHNESS.
WE ARE MOST GRATEFUL...
SEAL OFF THE OFFICES AND LIVING AREAS!
DON'T ALLOW ANYONE IN WITHOUT MY APPROVAL!
THE PLAGUE MUST NOT GET IN HERE
AND THE FOOD STORES...
WE MUST PROTECT THE WATER SUPPLY.
YOUR HIGHNESS THERE'S AN EGYPTIAN HERE REQUESTING AN AUDIENCE.
I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.
I WAS THINKING HOW WORN IT LOOKS. HE'S USED IT SINCE THE DAY HE BECAME KING
MY FATHER'S SEAL
WHAT'S THAT PRINCE KAIL?

SO YOU'RE EGYPT'S ENVOY
WELCOME TO HATTUSA, RAMSES
THAT'S RIGHT
OUR COUNTRIES AGREED TO EXCHANGE OFFICERS AT OUR RECENT PEACE TALKS
THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU DID
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAVED ME!
THAT'S THE EGYPTIAN SOLDIER!
WHERE HAVE I HEARD THAT NAME?
RAMSES?
PLEASE FORGIVE MY RUDE BEHAVIOR AT THAT TIME MY NAME IS RAMSES
HELLO PRINCESS YUN!
?
TONK-TONK
IF ONLY I'D PAID MORE ATTENTION IN WORLD HISTORY
I CAN'T REMEMBER.

PLEASE ACCEPT MY WORDS OF SYMPATHY ...
FOR HIS MAJESTY'S ILLNESS.
YOU'RE...
RAMSES!
YES YOUR HIGHNESS
I'VE COME TO PRESENT MYSELF TO YOUR HIGHNESS
I AM THE EGYPTIAN MILITARY ENVOY TO HATTUSA.
HEH

HEH THE KING AND THE CROWN PRINCE INTEREST ME LITTLE.
RULE?
BUT PRINCE ARNUWANDA WILL BE THE NEXT KING
BUT YOU HAVE INFLU-ENCE...
WITH THE MAN WHO IS GOING TO RULE THIS LAND
OH YES...
ANY FOOL CAN SEE THAT
PRINCE KAIL WILL SOON BE THE MOST POWERFUL MAN IN THE HITTITE EMPIRE

I MUST EXCUSE MYSELF NOW RAMSES. BUT I'M SURE YUR WILL BE HAPPY TO ACCEPT YOUR GIFTS
OF COURSE
YOUR HIGH-NESS. WITH YOUR PERMISSION, I'D LIKE TO PRESENT SOME GIFTS TO YOUR CONCUBINE
GIFTS? FOR ME?
OH! THEY'RE BEAUTI-FUL! ♡
BUT... WHY WOULD YOU GIVE A TREASURE LIKE THIS TO ME?
EGYPTIAN CRAFTS-MANSHIP IS EXQUISITE!
I'M JUST PRINCE KAIL'S CONCUBINE

OH!
NEXT TIME I COME HERE TO STEAL
I'LL TAKE MORE THAN JUST A KISS

?!
OVER THERE
DEAR GIRLS..
I BROUGHT GIFTS FOR YOU, AS WELL
HOW WONDERFUL! ♡
OH! FOR US? ♡
SWUP
I WANTED TO SEE YOU AGAIN
APART FROM, WHAT?
APART FROM THAT

RAMSES!
AN ARISTOCRATIC SOLDIER...?!
WHAT'S HIS GAME?

DON'T EVER LET HIM IN HERE AGAIN!
PRINCESS YURI, DID YOU HEAR?
RAMSES IS ONE OF THE GREATEST SOLDIERS IN EGYPT
SOME GIRLS TOLD ME THAT HE'S AN ARISTOCRAT FROM MEMPHIS
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!
I'LL CALL ON YOU AGAIN.
SWIP SWIP
HOW CAN HE BEHAVE LIKE THAT?! NOW OF ALL TIMES WITH THE PLAGUE RAVAGING THE CITY?!
AND HE'S A GUEST IN THIS COUNTRY!
HOW DARE HE KISS A HITTITE PRINCESS?!
PLEASE COME AGAIN SOON! ♡
BUT WE DIDN'T SERVE YOU ANYTHING
OH YOU'RE LEAVING?

IF THE CROWN PRINCE BECOMES KING, HE COULD NAME PRINCE KAIL AS HIS SUCCESSOR.
I BELIEVE THAT PRINCE KAIL WILL BECOME KING...
ONLY IF HIS BROTHER NAMES HIM CROWN PRINCE
BUT PRINCE ARNUWANDA IS NOT A MAN OF STRONG WILL.
QUEEN NAKIA WILL CERTAINLY TRY TO INFLUENCE HIM.
QUEEN NAKIA WILL INTERFERE, OF COURSE
I'M AFRAID IT'S NOT THAT EASY
BUT WON'T SHE LOSE HER POWER WHEN HIS MAJESTY DIES?

PRINCE KAIL...
WILL BE OUR NEXT RULER?
YES.
RAMSES...
TOLD YOU THAT?
WILL PRINCE KAIL BECOME THE NEW CROWN PRINCE?
YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT, AS LONG AS...
DO YOU FORESEE PROBLEMS?
YES. I HOPE IT DOES WORK OUT THAT WAY
I DON'T LIKE HIM, BUT
—HE SEEMS RATHER PERCEPTIVE

SHUDDER
IS THIS HOW A POLITICAL INTRIGUE WORKS? IF YOU LOSE, YOU DIE?!
I'VE SEEN THEM ON TV AND READ ABOUT THEM, BUT I NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE MIXED UP IN ONE
YURI...
YOU DON'T NEED TO BE AFRAID
BUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THE EMPIRE THEN?
TAWANANNA IS AN INDEPENDENT POSITION
NAKIA WILL BE TAWANANNA TO THE END OF HER LIFE
SHE WILL CONTINUE TO WIELD GREAT AUTHORITY EVEN AFTER KING SUPPILULIUMA DIES
IF PRINCE ZIDA BECOMES THE CROWN PRINCE, QUEEN NAKIA WILL UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE PRINCE KAIL MURDERED
WE WON'T BE AROUND TO FIND OUT
WE WILL ALL SHARE PRINCE KAIL'S FATE WHATEVER IT IS

PRINCE KAIL, HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING ALL THIS TIME? IS THE KING STILL VERY SICK?
YES
AND THEY STILL WON'T LET ME SEE HIM
THE KING'S SEAL
sigh

BUT NOT ABOUT AFFAIRS OF STATE OR THE POWER STRUGGLE...
I THINK HE'S AFRAID FOR HIS FATHER.
PRINCE KAIL SEEMS MORE WORRIED THAN I AM...
PRINCE KAIL, I'M SURE THE KING WILL GET BETTER.

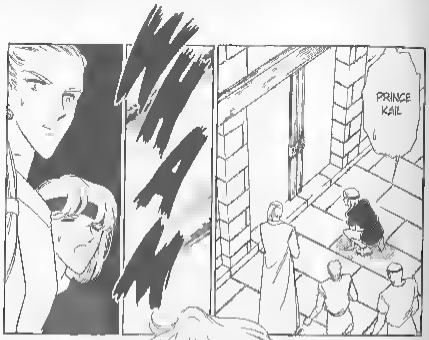
GOOD NIGHT.
FORGIVE ME
PLEASE EXCUSE US

IL-BAN!
DON'T WORRY YURI UNNECESSARILY.
YES YOUR HIGHNESS
PRINCE KAIL...

PRINCE KAIL...
YOU NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT WHAT IL-BAN! JUST TOLD YOU
I'LL PROTECT YOU NO MATTER WHAT COMES TO PASS
sniff
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ANY-THING...

YOU THINK SO?
PRINCE KAIL IS A GOOD SON. HE TRULY LOVES HIS FATHER.
YES.
I THINK SO
KLAK KLAK

I'M SORRY YOUR HIGHNESS!
HE SAID YOUR FATHER HAS RAGED.
PRINCE KAIL!
A MESSENGER JUST ARRIVED FROM THE KING'S PALACE
PRINCE KAIL, I'M.
PRINCE KAIL ARE YOU THERE ?
YURI
LET ME STAY WITH YOU. A LITTLE WHILE
OF COURSE.


PRINCE KAIL

I'M GOING TO MY FATHER'S PALACE!!

I DON'T THINK I CAN BE A KING
OF COURSE YOU CAN MY BROTHER!
YOU WILL MAKE AN EXCELLENT KING!
OH, KAIL
I HAVEN'T THE STRENGTH FOR THIS
KAIL
PROMISE ME YOU'LL STAY WITH ME AND HELP ME.
STAY WITH ME. PLEASE
I'LL AID YOU IN ALL THAT YOU DO
HAVE NO FEAR, ARNU-WANDA.

KING SUPPILU-LIUMA...
...WAS DEAD.
HE'S RIGHT.
THE SEVEN DAY FEVER HAS THROWN THE ENTIRE EMPIRE INTO DISARRAY
NOT EVEN THE GREAT CONQUEROR WHO HAD FORGED THE HITTITE EMPIRE COULD DEFEAT THE PLAGUE.
THE THRONE MUST NOT REMAIN VACANT
AFTER THE FUNERAL WE MUST ENTHRONE THE CROWN PRINCE STRAIGHT-AWAY!!

JUDA HASU-PASUL-IPI
AND THE SON OF THE TAWA-NANNA...
PRINCE KAIL
PRINCE KAIL MURSIL...
THE GAL MESHEDI

AND SO...
ARNU-WANDA, II WAS CROWNED KING.
AS CANDIDATES FOR CROWN PRINCE
AND TWO NAMES WERE PUT FORWARD...

I'M NOT FIT TO BE THE CROWN PRINCE!
QUEEN NAKUE'S PALACE
ME? CROWN PRINCE ?!
BUT WHY? THAT POSITION SHOULD GO TO KAI!

JUDA WILL BE THIS COUNTRY'S KING NO MATTER WHAT!
I KNOW HOW TO CONTROL THE SENATORS AND THE NOBLES
AND THE PEOPLE STILL WORSHIP YURI AS THE INCARNATION OF ISHTAR!
BUT WE MUSTN'T UNDERESTIMATE KAILE'S ABILITY OR HIS POPULARITY
YOUR HIGHNESS I HAVE AN IDEA
OH?

YOU'RE THE NATURAL CHOICE FOR CROWN PRINCE.
DON'T SAY THAT, JUDA
YOU ARE THE ONLY PRINCE WHO HAS MY BLOOD IN HIS VEINS
YOUR MOTHER IS RIGHT, PRINCE JUDA. IF YOU ARE NAMED CROWN PRINCE, YOU WILL BE KING ONE DAY
I DON'T WANT TO BE KING!
LEAVE THESE MATTERS TO ME.
YOUR MAJESTY
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE THIS BATTLE
SOMEONE TAKE HIM OUT OF HERE
I KNOW, URH!
MOTHER!

I WON'T LOSE HER TO THE PLAGUE, AS WELL
AND DON'T LET YURI FIND OUT WHAT THE QUEEN IS DOING
IF SHE HEARS ABOUT IT SHE'S SURE TO VENTURE OUT OF THE PALACE AND PUT HERSELF AT RISK.
I'M NOT SURPRISED I'LL GO SEE HOW SHE'S DOING
YES. YOU'RE RIGHT PRINCE KAIL. PRINCESS YURI HAS ALREADY GROWN IMPATIENT WITH THE ISOLATION
NOTHING
DON'T DO ANYTHING FOR THE MOMENT
BUT, YOUR HIGHNESS...
GET OUT !!
WHAT?
THERE ARE MORE PRESSING MATTERS AT HAND
JUST KEEP AN EYE ON HER FOR NOW

RAH
RAH
WHAT? THE QUEEN DOWAGER DID THAT?
HAVE YOU HEARD?
WUZZ
IS IT TRUE ABOUT THE QUEEN DOWAGER ?
REALLY?
THE QUEEN DOWAGER DID THAT?
NAKIA DID THAT?
I KNEW SHE'D DO SOMETHING
WHAT SHOULD WE DO PRINCE KAIL?
IT'S OBVIOUSLY AN ATTEMPT TO POSITION HER SON TO BECOME CROWN PRINCE.
YES. YOUR HIGHNESS THE WHOLE CITY IS TALKING ABOUT IT

GIRLS...
DON'T EVER LET THAT MAN ENTER THIS PALACE AGAIN!
WHAT IF PRINCE KAIL FOUND OUT ABOUT THIS? THAT MAN IS A NUISANCE!
A-ALL RIGHT !!
HE SAID HE WOULDN'T JUST STEAL A KISS NEXT TIME
THAT ARROGANT BASTARD!
IF IT WAS A JOKE IT'S NOT FUNNY
YOU SEEM TO BE IN A BAD MOOD YURI
GASP!
W-WELCOME HOME.
P-PRINCE KAIL?!

DON'T EVER COME BACK!
VERY WELL. I'LL RETURN ANOTHER TIME.
WHAT'S THAT MAN UP TO?
HE'S BEEN COMING HERE A LOT LATELY
I'LL COME BACK SOME OTHER TIME
I CAME TO PAY MY RESPECTS TO YOUR CONCUBINE BUT IT APPEARS SHE'S OUT OF SORTS
PRINCE KAIL
RAMSES

I'VE HEARD HE'S A NOTORIOUS WOMANIZER
YOU'RE THE ONLY THING HERE THAT COULD POSSIBLY INTEREST HIM.
SWOOP
OH!!
TH-THAT'S NOT TRUE
BUT SO WHAT IF IT WERE?
WHAT'S IMPORTANT NOW IS
WHAT ABOUT THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS?
WH-WHAT?
HE COULD'VE DONE ANYTHING HE WANTED TO YOU WHILE HE HAD YOU IN HIS PALACE

NO EVERYTHING'S FINE
H-HOW'S IS THE NEW KING DOING?
AND WHAT ABOUT QUEEN NAKIA? IS SHE SCHEMING TO HAVE JUDA NAMED THE CROWN PRINCE?
PRINCE KAIL DOESN'T HAVE TIME TO WASTE ON A MAN LIKE RAMSES

GASP!
IT
BA-BUMP
YURI WHY WAS RAMSES HERE?
IT LOOKS LIKE HE COMES HERE TO SEE YOU, NOT ME
SHE'S SURE TO BE UP TO NO GOOD YOU'D BETTER KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON HER!
I DON'T CARE WHAT HER TITLE IS
ER, PRINCESS YURI, NAKIA IS NO LONGER THE QUEEN BUT THE QUEEN DOWAGER.

P...
PRINCE KAIL...
I ONLY KEPT IT BECAUSE I WANTED TO REMEMBER HER FOR HIM
THIS REPRESENTS THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS'S LOVE FOR HIS SISTER.
IT MEANS NOTHING TO ME!

DO YOU THINK
THAT I DON'T GET JEALOUS?
-TUP -TUP
WAIT
THIS IS NO TIME TO TALK ABOUT THAT

HM... HE REALLY TALKS
AHHH... WHAT'S WRONG? HES JUST TRYING TO DISTRACT HIM.
BR... WE'LL JUST BE GOING

I DON'T LIKE THAT YOU WEAR IT
THE ONLY THING THAT SHOULD EVER TOUCH YOUR SKIN...
IS ME
THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS WORE THIS ON HIS FOREHEAD DIDN'T HE?

THIS IS MY TREASURE
I DON'T WANT ANY-ONE ELSE TO SEE IT IT BELONGS ONLY TO ME. THAT'S WHY I KEEP IT HERE
IT'S...
THE CLAY TABLET I SENT YOU!
YOU KEPT IT?

YURI?
WAP
COME WITH ME

GIVE ME YOUR HAND PRINCE KAIL
THAT'S THE BOX YOU KEEP YOUR CLOTHES FROM JAPAN IN, ISN'T IT?
YES IT'S WHERE I KEEP MY REAL TREASURES
!!

YOU..

WAIT, PRINCE KAIL!
PLEASE, WAIT.
WHERE WOULD I KEEP THEM ALL?
I'LL HAVE A WING BUILT FOR YOU TO STORE THEM IN
I'LL SEND YOU THOU-SANDS OF THEM
IF YOU LIKE IT SO MUCH I'LL SEND YOU ONE EVERY DAY
I'LL HAVE IT INSCRIBED ON A CARNELIAN OR WOULD YOU PREFER A SAPPHIRE?

AND I'M WORRIED ABOUT HIM
PRINCE KAIL IS HIDING SOMETHING FROM ME HE'S WORRIED ABOUT ME
I NEED YOUR HELP!
RYLH! SHALA!
HADI!
IT'S THE QUEEN, ISN'T IT? SHE'S UP TO SOME THING !!
YOU'RE HIDING SOMETHING FROM ME!
YOU CAN'T FOOL ME, PRINCE KAIL!
SWIP
JUST STAY INSIDE THE PALACE AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING
YOU'RE VERY PERSONAL TYP
BUT I'M NOT HIDING ANYTHING FROM YOU.
WHAT IS THE QUEEN UP TO NOW?
PRINCE KAIL!
WHAM
THE SEVEN DAY FEVER IS RAMPANT OUTSIDE THE PALACE
PRINCE KAIL, LET ME HELP YOU
I STILL HAVE BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO
DAWN.

DON'T PLAY DUMB WITH US
I'LL MAKE YOU TELL US WHAT YOU KNOW
KUH
I, I DON'T KNOW! WHAT YOU'RE TALKING AB-!
KIKKURI WHAT IS PRINCE KAIL KEEPING FROM ME?
WHAT...
WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?
BOOM
I'VE SERVED PRINCE KAIL FAITHFULLY FOR 15 YEARS
TORTURE ME IF YOU WANT-- I'LL NEVER TALK!
THEN YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE I'LL HAVE TO KISS YOU
WHAT?
WHAT'S THE BIG SECRET?
WHAT'S THE QUEEN DOING NOW?

EHP
KIKKURI
OVER HERE

GASP
KUH
?!
WHAT IS IT PRINCESS YURI?
I'M ON AN ERRAND FOR PRINCE KAIL.

NAKI...
...HAS BUILT SOMETHING CALLED A "HOUSE OF REST" OUTSIDE THE WALLS OF HATTUSA
A HOUSE OF REST ?!
THEY SAY IT'S VERY CLEAN AND COMFORT-ABLE
YES
IT'S A PLACE WHERE THOSE WHO HAVE CONTRACTED THE SEVEN DAY FEVER ARE CARED FOR

THAT'S RIGHT
GASP
OH, THAT'S VERY SERIOUS
...SISTER THEY ABDUCTED PRINCESS YURI
PRINCE KIL DESTROYED THE MITANNI
PRINCE KAIL WILL BE FURIOUS WHEN HE HEARS

FINE THEN FUCKER UP
ARE ARE YOU THREAT-ENING ME? I WON'T BE COERCED!
YES VERY BAD
IT WOULD BE VERY BAD
OH, SHIT
WHAT WILL HE DO WHEN HE LEARNED THAT HIS MOST TRUSTED AIDE HAS BEEN KISSING HER?

I'LL TALK! I'LL TELL YOU EVERY-THING!!
I DON'T WANT TO DIE!!
WAAAAH!!
NO!!

WHY WOULD SHE DO THAT?
A BID FOR POPULARITY?
JUST AS YOUR POPULARITY IS LINKED TO THAT OF PRINCE KAIL
IT'S OBVIOUS!
IF HER POPULARITY GROWS SO WILL HER SON'S
SHE WANTS PRINCE JUDA TO BE NAMED THE CROWN PRINCE!
SWIP
PRINCESS YURI, YOU'RE SURE BRAVE
SO IT'S ALL RIGHT WITH ME.
SELF-SERVING OR NOT, SHE IS HELPING PEOPLE
PRINCESS YURI, WILL YOU STAND FOR THIS?
I CAN'T STAND IT THAT NAKIA IS TRYING TO PROMOTE HERSELF BY IMITATING WHAT PRINCESS YURI DID

THAT'S JUST WHAT PRINCESS YURI DID IN WASSUGANN!!
BUT...
HE MUST'VE TOLD THE QUEEN DOWAGER ABOUT THAT!
URHI IS BEHIND THIS
IT'S JUST A BID FOR POPULARITY HOW DESPICABLE!
BUT PRINCESS YURI DID IT OUT OF COMPASSION, NOT FOR SELF-PROMOTION!
FRESH WATER AND FOOD ARE BROUGHT THERE EVERY DAY IN THE NAME OF THE QUEEN DOWAGER!
THERE ARE EVEN CARETAKERS TO TEND THE SICK

THE QUEEN BUILT A HOUSE OF REST TO BOOST HER POPULARITY?
I WONDER IF THAT'S ALL THAT PRINCE KAIL WAS TRYING TO KEEP FROM ME.
WHY DIDN'T HE WANT ME TO KNOW ABOUT THAT?
IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE...

PRINCE KAIL COMMANDED THAT YURI WAS NOT TO KNOW!
YOU FOOL..
YOU TOLD HER, DIDN'T YOU?
ILBAN!
I'M SORRY
BUT I ONLY TOLD HER ABOUT THE HOUSE OF REST
I SAID NOTHING ABOUT THE OTHER THING!
OH GOOD

MY NEWS IS.
THAT ANOTHER YOU HAS SHOWN UP.
ANOTHER... ME?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING OUTSIDE THE PALACE?
IF YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME ABOUT THE QUEEN DOWAGER'S HOUSE OF REST, I ALREADY KNOW ABOUT THAT.
THAT'S NOT WHY I'M HERE.
TUMP

HUSH
BE STILL.
OH! RAMS--
THIS IS THE SECOND FLOOR.
HOW... HOW DID YOU GET UP HERE?!
I CLIMBED
I HAD TO MAKE SURE THAT NO ONE SAW ME WHICH MADE IT CONSIDERABLY MORE DIFFICULT.
REALLY?
WA?
WELL THE TRIP DOWN WILL BE MUCH EASIER!
WHOA! STOP THAT!
I'VE BROUGHT YOU IMPORTANT NEWS...

" YOUR POPULARITY IS LINKED TO THAT OF PRINCE KAIL "
SHE'S DESTROYING BOTH YOUR REPUTATIONS
IF THIS GOES ON, THE POPULARITY OF ISHTAR WILL PLUMMET...
...WHILE THAT OF THE QUEEN DOWAGER SOARS
AND SHE'S USING PRINCE KAIL'S NAME TO GET WHATEVER SHE WANTS
THEY SAY SHE'S VERY BEAUTIFUL.
IMPERSONATING ME?
SOMEONE IS IMPERSONATING YOU.
YES
A WOMAN WHO CLAIMS TO BE PRINCE KAIL'S CONCUBINE HAS APPEARED. SHE EVEN CALLS HERSELF ISHTAR

IF SHE DESERVES TO BE THE WIFE OF A KING...
YURI IS RIGHT...
SHE SHOULD BE ABLE TO SOLVE A PROBLEM LIKE THIS ON HER OWN
DAMN! WHO TOLD HER THAT SOMEONE WAS IMPER-SONATING HER?!
YURI HAS LEFT FOR KATAPA?!

IS THE QUEEN BEHIND THIS IMPOSTER?
THAT I DON'T KNOW
MY AGENT TOLD ME JUST WHAT I TOLD YOU
WHERE'S THIS FAKE ISHTAR NOW?
IN KATAPA
IT'S NOT FAR FROM HATTUSA
THEN I'M GOING TO KATAPA
GIRLS...
I'M GOING OUT?
GOING OUT? PRINCESS YURI WAIT!

THERE ARE DEAD BODIES EVERY-WHERE
FWAP
FWAP

THE SEVEN DAY FEVER IS WORSE THAN I IMAGINED
KLOP
KLOP
IT'S BEEN LIKE THIS IN EVERY VILLAGE SINCE I LEFT HATTUSA.
IT'S A GOOD THING I DIDN'T BRING HADI AND HER SISTERS WITH ME
KLOP

KLOP
KLOP
KLOP

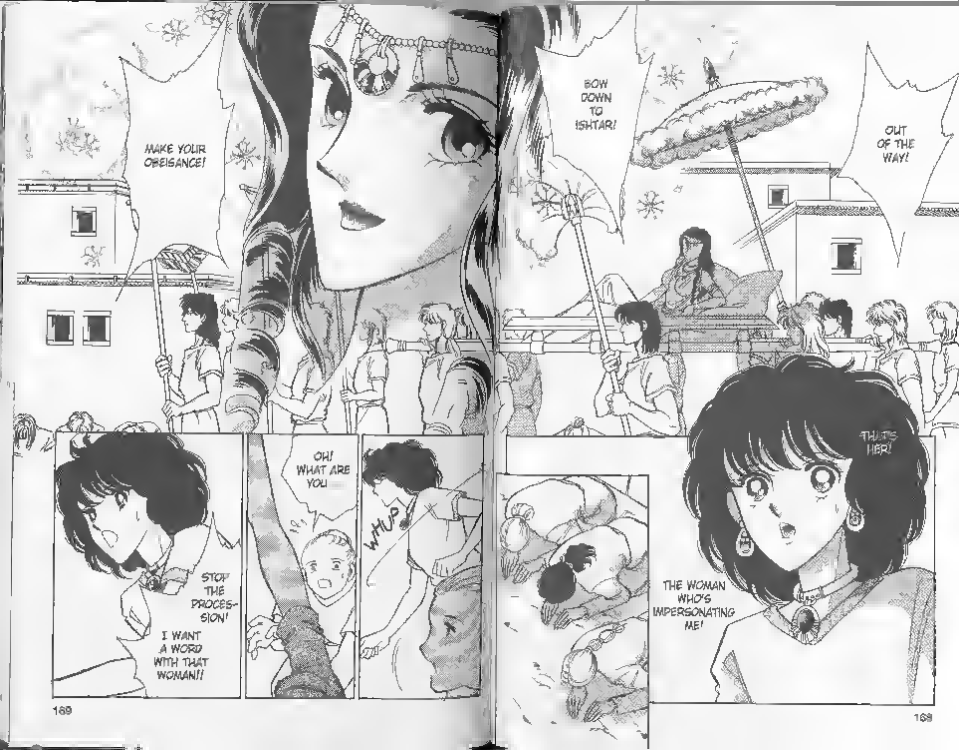
KLOP
KLOP
BUT HOW WILL I FIND HER?
RAMSES SAID THE PHONY ISHTAR IS HERE
ANOTHER VICTIM!
ANOTHER VICTIM OF THE SEVEN DAY FEVER!
TAKE HER TO THE HOUSE OF REST!
"SHE'S DESTROYING BOTH YOUR REPUTATIONS."
BUT I CAN'T SIT STILL...
...WHILE SOMEONE PRETENDING TO BE ME MAKES TROUBLE FOR PRINCE KAIL
"AND SHE'S USING THE NAME OF PRINCE KAIL TO GET WHATEVER SHE WANTS."
I WON'T LET ANYONE PREVENT PRINCE KAIL FROM BECOMING THE CROWN PRINCE!
KATAPA

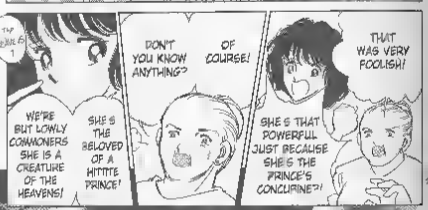
WE USED TO THINK SHE WAS A COLD WOMAN, BUT
NOW WE KNOW THAT SHE TRULY CARES ABOUT US
YOU MEAN ISHTAR, PRINCE KAIL'S CONCUBINE?
THEN THERE'S THAT OTHER WOMAN
WHERE CAN I FIND THIS ISHTAR?
HUSH
HERE SHE COMES
HMPH IT'S HER DAILY PROCESSION
PERHAPS HER SON, PRINCE JUDA, SHOULD BECOME THE CROWN PRINCE

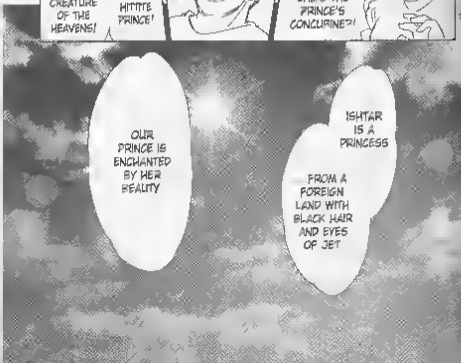
YES THEY'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER THERE
THAT'S HER ONLY CHANCE FOR SURVIVAL.
THANK THE GODS FOR HER!
THANKS TO THE QUEEN DOWAGER, SHE MAY BE ABLE TO GET WELL.

EXCUSE ME ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THE HOUSE OF REST THE QUEEN DOWAGER HAD BUILT AT HATTUSA?
EH? ARE YOU FROM THERE?
WUZZ
WUZZ

THE QUEEN DOWAGER BUILT HOUSES OF REST NOT ONLY IN THE CAPITAL.
WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL TO THE QUEEN DOWAGER
BUT IN ASKUWA, TAPIGGA, AJINNA, AND HERE AS WELL


MAKE YOUR OBEISANCE!
BOW DOWN TO ISHTAR!
OUT OF THE WAY!
STOP THE PROCESSION!
I WANT A WORD WITH THAT WOMAN!!
OH! WHAT ARE YOU
WHO?
THAT'S HER!
THE WOMAN WHO'S IMPERSONATING ME!


THE PRINCE!
WE'RE BUT LOWLY COMMONERS SHE IS A CREATURE OF THE HEAVENS!
SHE'S THE BELOVED OF A HITTITE PRINCE!
DON'T YOU KNOW ANYTHING?
OF COURSE!
THAT WAS VERY FOOLISH!
SHE'S THAT POWERFUL JUST BECAUSE SHE'S THE PRINCE'S CONCUBINE?!


OUR PRINCE IS ENCHANTED BY HER BEAUTY
ISHTAR IS A PRINCESS FROM A FOREIGN LAND WITH BLACK HAIR AND EYES OF JET

YOU BRAZEN FOOL!!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, CHILD?!
A WRETCH LIKE YOU ISN'T WORTHY TO GAZE UPON SO HOLY A PERSONAGE!
UNH.

IF YOU ASK ME...
A PRINCE SO TAKEN WITH A WOMAN LIKE THAT DOESN'T DESERVE TO BE OUR CROWN PRINCE.
SHE LOOKS MORE LIKE A PRINCESS THAN I DO
THEY'RE NEVER GOING TO BELIEVE THAT I'M THE REAL ISHTAR.
WHAT'S NOT TRUE?
WHAT?
THE TRUTH IS
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO THE PALACE, ARE YOU?
HEY, LITTLE GIRL!
IN A PALACE THAT BELONGS TO THE ROYAL FAMILY
UH... WHERE DOES ISHTAR STAY?

THESE PEOPLE CAN'T STAND THAT WOMAN!
WE'RE USED TO PRIVILEGED PEOPLE INDULGING THEMSELVES, BUT HOW CAN SHE FLAUNT HER GOOD FORTUNE WHILE THE WHOLE COUNTRY SUFFERS FROM THE PLAGUE?
IT'S DISGUSTING THE WAY OUR MAYOR AND HIS AIDES TRY TO CURRY HER FAVOR.
SHE BEHAVES LIKE AN UPSTART
SHE EXPECTS TO BE LAVISHED WITH FINE CLOTHING AND JEWELRY TO SHOW OFF IN HER DAILY PROCESSIONS
SHE TRULY IS BEAUTIFUL
BUT I'M SURPRISED THAT PRINCE KAIL WOULD FALL FOR ONE SUCH AS HER!

WE'RE SHORTHANDED BECAUSE OF THE SEVEN DAY FEVER
YET WE HAVE TO CREATE A BANQUET FOR ISHTAR EVERY NIGHT. IT'S JUST TOO MUCH WORK
HEY.. LADIES
IF YOU'RE SHORTHANDED I'LL BE GLAD TO HELP YOU OUT!

I WAS SHOWING THE MAYOR OR SOME ARISTOCRAT WHO'VE SEEN ME IN BATTLE. I AND WOULD RECOGNIZE ME...
STOP TALKING NONSENSE OR WE'LL THROW YOU IN JAIL!
LITTLE GIRL...
YOU SAY YOU WANT TO SEE THE MAYOR?
NOW HE GONE.

I COULD LIVE LIKE THIS FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE
IF I WERE A REAL CONCUBINE TO A PRINCE
YOU THINK YOU COULD BE A CONCUBINE?
URH!!

AS MUCH EXPENSIVE FOOD AND DRINK AS I WANT!
PRECIOUS GEMS!
BEAUTIFUL GOWNS!
SAPPHIRES RUBIES AGATES AND LAPIS LAZULI
AND ALL THIS JUST FOR CLAIMING I M ISHTAR!

I HAVE SOMEONE TO PRESENT TO ISHTAR.
WE HIRED A NEW SERVANT TODAY
MY NAME IS YURI
I DON'T NEED TO MEET A SERVANT
"

IT WAS NOTHING
KEEP CLAIMING TO BE ISHTAR AND AN OPPORTUNITY MAY WELL ARISE FOR YOU TO MEET HIM
WELL KEEP IT UP
WHY NOT?
AM I NOT BEAUTIFUL?
I ONLY HELPED YOU REALIZE YOUR POTENTIAL
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU REALLY ARE BUT YOU MADE THOSE ARISTOCRATS BELIEVE THAT I AM ISHTAR.
I'M GRATEFUL TO YOU, URHI
PRINCE KAIL WILL SURELY DESIRE ME WHEN HE SEES ME.

HMPH
YOU! COMMONERS DISGUST ME!
WHAT A PRESUMPTUOUS GIRL!
WHY WOULD I GIVE A RING TO A SERVANT?
DON'T WANT TO BE SEEN WITH YOU.
APOLOGIZE TO HER!
MY APOLOGY, YOUR HIGHNESS SHE'S NOT PROPERLY TRAINED YET
YURI MIGHT HAVE BROUGHT PRINCE KAIL WITH HER
BUT THE LITTLE FOOL CAME ALONE!
I WAS GOING TO LEAVE HER ALONE IF SHE WOULD DO SOMETHING THAT WOULD HELP PRINCE KAIL'S REPUTATION, BUT...
...IT LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO TALK TO THE MAYOR AND HIS AIDES ABOUT HER.

YURI!
SHE KNOWS ABOUT THE DECEPTION!

LADY ISHTAR?
WITH ONE OF YOUR RINGS WE COULD BUY A LOT OF FOOD AND MEDICINE FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE SEVEN DAY FEVER
MAY WE HAVE ONE PLEASE?
EXCUSE ME
TAKE HER AWAY
YES YOUR HIGHNESS

THERE ARE FOREIGN ENTERTAINERS VISITING OUR TOWN.
PERHAPS WE COULD FIND SOME NEW MUSICIANS.
THAT'S THE MAYOR I DON'T RECOGNIZE HIM
I NEED TO CREATE AN OPPORTUNITY TO TALK TO HIM
THAT DOESN'T INTEREST ME
I'M BORED OF THE SAME OLD FEASTS EVERY DAY
WHAT ABOUT A PERFORMING MONKEY?
I KNOW A MAN WITH A WHITE ONE.
ISN'T THERE ANYTHING NEW?
BORING!
IS THERE NOTHING EXCITING TO SEE?

OH!
ISHTAR, YOU LOOK ESPECIALLY RADIANT TONIGHT
NORMALLY, A CONCUBINE IS GIVEN A SEPARATE ROOM, BUT...
PRINCE KAIL KEEPS ME WITH HIM THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT
YOUR BEAUTY NEVER FAILS TO BEDAZZLE ME
THAT'S JUST WHAT PRINCE KAIL SAYS

Y-YES...OF COURSE!
IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WISH...
HOLD THIS
UNH!
WONDERFUL
WE COULD HOLD A TOURNAMENT AND THE WINNER...
WILL GET A PRIZE FROM PRINCE KAL!
YOU SELFISH IDIOT!

I'VE HEARD THAT IN FAR LANDS THEY FORCE THEIR SLAVES TO FIGHT WILD BEASTS FOR ENTERTAINMENT.
I HAVE AN IDEA.
I'D LIKE TO SEE THAT!
WILL YOU DO AS I SAY OR WON'T YOU?!
OR THOSE MALE SERVANTS WILL DO WHY DON'T YOU HAVE THEM FIGHT EACH OTHER?
BUT THERE ARE SLAVES WHO BELONG TO THIS PALACE, AREN'T THERE?
I'M NOT SUGGESTING YOU HAVE A SLAVE FIGHT A LION
IN OUR COUNTRY SUCH A THING IS.
BUT ISHTAR

WHAT DID SHE SAY?
WHAT?
VIXEN!
WHY, YOU..
!!
BLAZE
SPLASH!

PRINCE KAIL WOULD NEVER KEEP A WOMAN WHO WOULD SUGGEST SUCH A CRUEL THING!
THIS IS A CRUCIAL TIME FOR PRINCE KAIL AND YOU'RE HURTING HIM!
YOU AGAIN!
DO YOU REALIZE WHO YOU ARE SPEAKING TO?
NO I DON'T!
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?
YOU'RE CERTAINLY NOT ISHTAR!

HEH
HEH
HEH
HE DOESN'T DO ANY SUCH THI .
IF I AM NOT ISHTAR, THEN WHO IS?
I CAN TELL YOU HOW PRINCE KAIL CARESSES ME IF YOU WISH TO KNOW
OR SHALL I TELL YOU WHAT HE WHISPERS IN MY EAR AT NIGHT IN HIS BED-CHAMBER?

HA HA HA
HA HA HA
LOOK AT YOURSELF! YOU'RE A DISGRACE!!
BUT THAT MESS SUITS A LOW-BORN BEGGAR LIKE YOU!
HEH
HEH
HEH
SHE'S DISGUSTING

I'M.
WAIT! LISTEN TO ME PLEASE!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WHAT AN INSOLENT SERVANT, TO SPEAK TO PRINCE KAIL'S CONCUBINE LIKE THAT!
I'LL HAVE YOU PUNISHED FOR THAT!
BUT BEFORE ANYTHING ELSE, YOU WILL APOLOGIZE TO ISHTAR!
WHAP
AAAGH!

BUT HER FORGIVENESS!
UNH!
WUMP
HMPH
WHAT A STUPID GIRL
NO ONE WILL BELIEVE SHE'S THE REAL ISHTAR. SHE HAS ONLY HER WORD.

SCANED BY CHROKO.J EDITOR AKITO - SAMA